



CITY COUNCIL

Public Works Committee

Monday, May 18, 2009
Meeting Report

Committee Members Attending: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, D. Sterner; S. Fuhs

Others Attending: C. Younger, C. Jones, L. Kelleher

River Road Extension

Mr. Jones explained that currently River Road runs between Bingaman Street and Buttonwood Street. He noted the City's desire to extend River Road to Spring Street. He stated that a few years ago 1.6 million dollars was allocated by Congressman Gerlach to fund the River Road extension. He explained that several hurdles such as the radioactive slag pile at American Chain and Cable, the location of the historic Canal, etc., has slowed the process. He stated that the project would begin with a study, followed by design to define the street lines. The extension of River Road assumes that there will be light industrial or manufacturing development along this area. He noted that the City is also seeking a link between Spring and Windsor Street, which will re-direct the traffic generated by the Berkshire bottling plant. Mr. Jones explained that the federal allocation through Congressman Gerlach requires a 20% local match; \$400,000 will be allocated from the City's capital program.

In response to a question from Councilor Sterner, Mr. Jones explained that it is not possible to connect River Road with the RiverView Park area due to the configuration of Car Tech's industrial buildings.

Mr. Jones stated that PennDOT will be asked to oversee and monitor the extension of River Road.

East Ends Negotiation

Mr. Younger stated that a lease agreement containing a three-year term has been drafted. This new lease shifts maintenance and repair responsibilities to the East Ends Club. Ms. Kelleher stated that the lease agreement requires the club to pay real estate taxes. She inquired if the existing tax exemption has been lifted. Mr. Younger replied that the current tax exemption will remain in place.

Other

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the City seek out community partnerships for the maintenance of city parks and city playgrounds. She expressed the belief that some organizations may be willing to remove this burden from the City and undertake light projects, such as painting, minor repairs, litter pickup. She asked that this topic be placed on the next Public Works agenda.

Mr. Sterner noted that the tiles at the Hillside playground are coming up. This problem will be addressed.

Mr. Jones noted the successful playground installation at Baer Park. He noted the beautiful play tot lot installed at the play area.

The Public Works Committee adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

- Community partnerships to assist with light park maintenance
- Amend CIP to provide 20% match for River Road extension
- Repair Hillside playground tiles